

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA):** (a) The expenditure incurred in operating Gore Magnetite Project of Central Coalfields Limited during 1990-91 was Rs. 81. 69 lakhs.

(b) and (c). A quantity of 7,421 tonnes is lying in Gore Magnetite Project. As per financial accounts of the Coal company the value of the stock is Rs. 44.53 lakhs.

(d) A reference has been received from the Hon'ble member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) for re-starting the Gore Magnetite mine.

(e) Since the geological investigations carried out in the recent past do not show any encouraging result, the Board of directors of the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) had decided to close the Gore Magnetite mine. The workers have already been re-deployed in other mines of CCL.

#### **Indo-Saudi Joint Commission**

**3477. SHRI E. AHAMED:  
SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE:**

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Indo-Saudi Joint Commission met recently at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether Saudi Arabia had sought India's participation in their projects;

(d) if so, the number of such projects and the amount involved in those projects; and

(e) the response of the Government in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI):** (a) to (e). The third session of Indo-Saudi Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on the 13th and the 14th November of 1991. The deliberations showed that both sides were keen to strengthen bilateral, economic and technical cooperation. The Saudi side invited Indian participation in 50 projects with a total outlay of \$50 billion and the information on the projects is being disseminated to the interested Indian companies. Government warmly welcomes expansion and diversification of cooperation with Saudi Arabia including participation in projects there.

#### **[Translation]**

#### **Drought in Bihar**

**3478. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA  
MADHUKAR:  
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD  
SINGH:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:**

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Bihar is facing unprecedented drought condition at present and the agricultural production is likely to suffer as a result thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Bihar sought additional aid assistance from the Union Government to tackle the situation; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN):** (a) and (b). It is too early to indicate the size of

the crop yield based on the crop cutting experiments for the current year, as the same have not yet become due. However, as per the current assessment, the yields of some crops in Bihar are expected to be less this year, as compared to previous year, on account of dry spells and aberrant weather conditions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

**Production of coaltar in Barauni Refinery in Bihar**

**3479. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) the quantity and value of coaltar being produced in Barauni Refinery in Bihar;

(b) the percentage, quantity and value of his coaltar being utilised in Bihar in the construction of roadways, industry and others, separately; and

(c) the percentage, quantity and value of this gas being flared daily?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR):** (a) Barauni Refinery does not produce coaltar.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Flaring of Gas**

**3480. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural gas flared during 1991 and how does the same compare with the flaring of gas during last three years, Refinery-wise;

(b) the reasons for flaring the non-renewable source of energy; and

(c) the details of the steps taken for utilisation of such gas?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR):** (i) As against 5161 million standard cubic meters of gas (MMSCM) flared during 1990-91, the gas flared during the last three years is as follows:-

		MMSCM
1987-88	-	3423
1988-89	-	3874
1989-90	-	5733

There is no flaring of natural gas in any of the refineries.

(b) Flaring of associated natural gas which necessarily has to be produced along with crude oil, occurs due to lack of compression and transportation facilities and paucity of down stream consumers.

(c) Scheme for compression of low pressure gas in Gujarat, and for additional compression and transportation capacity of gas in the Western Offshore region are being implemented in order to reduce the flaring of gas. Attempts are also being made to expedite the setting up of down stream consumers in Assam.